(b) the number and details of such bills pending and since when;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these bills are pending even after repeated reminders by North Avenue Dispensary;

(d) the reasons for not reimbursing these bills even after such a long period;

(e) by when Government intends to clear these pending bills; and

(f) whether such pendency exist in other dispensaries also; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir, All the reimbursement claims of pensioners sent by North Avenue dispensary have been settled.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, the questions do not arise.

(f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Checking of pesticide level in soft drinks

1327. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have devised any mechanism to check the pesticide level in Colas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any public health crisis is caused due to endorsement of unhealthy foods and snacks by celebrities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have taken any action in respect of contaminated Colas which were endorsed by celebrities; if so, the details of the action taken against the companies as well as the celebrities?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) At present, limits for Pesticide Residues have not been prescribed for sweetened carbonated water which includes all the soft drinks. However, a draft notification proposing the requirements

of Pesticide Residues in these products was issued *vide* GSR 685(E) dated 26.8.2003 for inviting objections and suggestions. A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has also been set up to suggest criteria for evolving suitable safety standards for soft drinks. The PFA Rules, 1955 prohibit the Advertisement of any food, which is misleading or contravening the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954 and Rules made thereunder. Violations of the Rules is a punishable offence under the PFA Act, 1954.

Two child norm for contesting panchayat elections

1328. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India has upheld a piece of legislation passed by the Haryana Legislative Assembly debarring persons having more than two living children from contesting panchayat elections in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether a similar legislation for the candidates seeking election as MLA/MP is under Government's consideration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some Writ Petitions (Civil) and appeals challenging the provisions of section 175(1) (q) and 177(1) of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 (Act No. 11 of 1994) debarring persons who have more than two children from becoming or continuing as Sarpanch or a Panch of a Gram Panchayat or member of Panchayat Samiti or Zila Parishad, were dismissed by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 30th July, 2003.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Constitution (79th Amendment) Bill pending in Parliament aims at disqualification of a person contesting for, or holding office as a member of either House of Parliament or State Legislature, if she/he has more than two children. This issue was also recently